

# the chronicle

The pals who are keeping Jack young at 103

— see page 6



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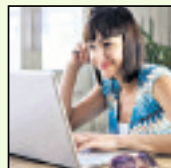
— see page 8



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## Tesco is urged to make quick start on building

DEVELOPERS have been urged to start work on the multi-million pound transformation of Stourbridge's Crown Centre as soon as possible after plans were approved. The scheme was welcomed by councillors.

Members of Dudley development control committee gave their go-ahead last night.

But temporary committee member, Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "I'm concerned that if Bell Street car park is demolished straight away, with work not starting on the Tesco development for a while, there could be a shortage of car parking spaces in the town."

"It would be good to get more assurances from Tesco on how long it will

take for the development to be completed."

Cabinet member for transport, Councillor Angus Adams, said previously that motorists would be directed to other town centre car parks.

He said a count of spaces had revealed there were "enough" not to have to provide an alternative.

Committee member Geoffrey Southall, who voted in support of the plans, said that the contemporary-style of the buildings would not be in keeping with the historic market town.

But chairman of the development control committee, Councillor Tim Wright, said: "We have to move with the times."



Artist's impression of Tesco from Stourbridge Ring Road (Bath Road)

## Quantum looks to reassure residents

A STOURBRIDGE firm has moved to reassure nearby residents over its planning application.

Quantum Mouldings, of Envile Street, is looking to lift a planning restriction on its operating hours.

Residents in Maypole Drive, at the back of the Quantum Works, have expressed concern.

But Mark Wooldridge, director of the fibreglass firm, has stressed that the hours refer only to a recently built unit representing just four per cent extra floor space.

"The planning application is just to extend working hours in this tiny unit," he said.

"We have no further development planned for the site."

### Systems

"Last year we spent a significant sum of money improving our fume extraction systems and this has had a beneficial effect."

"We do care about our neighbours," he added. "We are happy to discuss any concerns that they may have."

"We are a business employing 25 people, all of whom rely on Quantum for their jobs. We would like to find solutions so we can live as neighbours with both sides happy."

Mr Wooldridge invited any residents with concerns to contact the firm on 01384 834422.

## Head's plea on parking

WARNING letters have been sent out to parents of pupils at a school near Stourbridge after a spate of complaints about "dangerous" parking.

Kevin Bailey, headteacher at Hagley Primary School in Park Road, is appealing for more consideration.

He said cars near the site were being left in an "obstructive and dangerous" way, causing problems for passing traffic and pedestrians.

# CROWNING GLORY FOR TOWN CENTRE

THE ailing Crown Centre in Stourbridge is to get a £50million facelift after plans were given the go-ahead.

Bosses said building work could start "early next year" on the plans to create a 60,000sq ft Tesco superstore with other shops and office space.

The existing Crown Centre and Bell Street multi-storey car park will be demolished in the move.

Around 400 new full and part time jobs will be created by the development as the plans were unanimously approved on Monday night.

It is estimated the development would pave the way for local traders to ring up an estimated extra £200,000 a week through their tills.

Councillor Les Jones, deputy leader of Dudley Council, estimated Tesco could rake in £1million a week for the new superstore.

More than 500 car parking spaces will be built in a two-level car park under the new Crown Centre.

The transformation of Stourbridge's Crown Centre has been heralded as a new chapter for the town.

Dudley Council planning committee chairman Councillor Tim Wright said it would "meet the needs of today, for the people of today".

Plans for the development include creating a large town square in front of the old Yorkshire Bank and eight new retail units and offices.

### MODERN

But concerns were raised about the number of parking spaces available during building work.

There were also worries about the modern style of the new centre alongside historic architecture of surrounding buildings.

In addition, some small traders also complained at the meeting about possible loss of income when the superstore is built.

But the development control committee decided to follow officers' advice to approve the plans.

Tesco chiefs say they hope the

new superstore and centre will be open by Christmas 2012.

The retailer's corporate affairs manager Tony Fletcher today said it was "unlikely" that work would start before the end of the year.

He said Tesco would be holding further talks with Dudley Council over how to work with conditions set out by the authority when it granted the application.

The approval marks the end of a long-running saga as several stores, including the former Morrisons superstore and Spencer's Market, pulled out of the centre in recent years.

It was the third time in three years that plans to transform the centre had been placed on the table.

Previous applications included creating a hotel and market hall but they were scaled down.

Alternative access to the town hall and library within the centre will be arranged during work on the latest scheme.

A 543-space parking area will be provided below Tesco to replace the bulldozed car park.

Tesco's Nick Baker told the meeting the development would bring "significant investment to Stourbridge at the heart of the town centre".

Bell Street will be two-way to traffic passing in front of the Crystal Leisure Centre as New Street disappears.



View of the new Crown Square at the entrance to the shopping centre



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# Old school ties for two VIPs on Question Time

COALITION MPs Andrew Griffiths and Lorely Burt faced a grilling at their old school in Sedgley in a version of TV's Question Time.

A debate on soaring university tuition fees and cuts to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) were major topics – prompting the biggest jeers as well as applause.

About 200 students heard the pair and Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin debate as High Arcal head boy, Joe Dutton, aged 16, chaired the discussion.

All three agreed that Joe handled the event so well he should take over from the BBC's David Dimbleby when he retires from Thursday night's political show.

## Democratic

Mr Griffiths, aged 40, Tory MP for Burton and Uttoxeter, left High Arcal School in 1988 with four A-levels.

Mrs Burt, 56, Liberal Democrat MP for Solihull, studied there until 1971, before A-levels at Dudley Technical College.

Ex-pupil Richard Drew, aged 17, of Cotwall End, Sedgley, now a student at Stourbridge's King Edward VI Sixth Form College, spotted the two MPs' links with his old school.

He noted the fact during work experience at the House of Commons and went on to draw it to High Arcal's attention.

Sukhot Dhami, school community cohesion director, said: "It's our 50th anniversary year and, when we realised we had two MPs among our former students, we thought it would be great to invite them back and to stage our own Question Time."

## Exercising for the over-50s

A COMMUNITY exercise class for the over-50s is being launched in Rowley Regis and will feature low impact routines.

The class will be held at St Giles Church Hall in Hawes Lane, Rowley, every Thursday from 9.30-10.30am, and admission is £2.50 each week. For more information contact Joyce Walker on 0121 559 8418 or just turn up at the class.

Pupil Katie Smith asked if scrapping the education maintenance allowance and the increase in tuition fees was another nail in the coffin of the democratic goal of extending access.

Mrs Burt, who abstained in the parliamentary vote on tuition fees, said she would like the government to look again at the issue.

Mr Griffiths said tens of thousands protested about fees, but millions did not.

Mr Austin received applause when he said: "It was a criminal act of vandalism."



Applause from some of the school audience for a point made from the panel



The three panellists Andrew Griffiths MP, left, Lorely Burt MP and Ian Austin MP at High Arcal School, Sedgley

## Police invite to the townsfolk

A SERIES of public meetings and drop-in sessions will be held by police in Amblecote next month.

The neighbourhood team will take the police camper van to Brompton Road Park next Wednesday, March 2, inviting anyone in the area to drop in between 5pm and 7pm for an informal chat with officers and community support officers.

On March 9, a special Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting will be held in Amblecote Church Hall, Vicarage Road, specifically for local businesses to raise any concerns.

A general PACT meeting for the whole community will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Vicarage Road, on March 30 at 7pm. Residents who attend any of the meetings will also hear an update on issues raised at previous meetings.

They include anti-social behaviour in the communal car park at the back of Oakhill Drive, and large groups of teenagers gathering in alleyways behind Sainsbury's after dark.

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## Problem over new gipsy site removed

WORK on a £1.6 million gipsy site in Tipton is to start within months.

Proposals for the Brierley Lane site stalled last summer as travellers objected.

Plans involved them moving from a 30-year-old site nearby, but they complained about having to move and said the fencing height was inadequate, among a string of complaints.

After six months of negotiations problems were ironed out and work is set to start in May.

The existing site in Brierley Lane will be cleared and facilities created on land next to it.

The site will include 16 pitches, new amenity buildings and landscaping.

## Decking

The site will be screened from the road by hedges and trees, with individual pitches fenced off, ample parking, paving and decking.

Originally Sandwell Council had proposed constructing plots of different sizes, to form starter pitches and retirement pitches.

However, the residents objected, asking for plots of uniform measurements.

The council has now moved boundaries to make all individual sites equal, and has made changes to the lighting.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for housing, said: "The money to pay for the work is coming from a Government grant and there will be no impact on the council taxpayer."

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# Mother's heartbreak at daughter's death

A GRANDMOTHER who won a battle with cancer has spoken of her heartbreak after losing her daughter to the disease. Liz Ashcroft, a teacher at Glynne Primary School, Kingswinford, died aged 45, leaving a husband and two children.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago and was in remission until suddenly falling ill shortly after Christmas. Tests revealed the disease had spread to her lungs and liver.

## Lunch

Her mother Jean Hadley, of Hayles Green, Halesowen, had breast cancer eight years ago. She was devastated by her daughter's death. "It has been hard for all of us. She had been so well at Christmas and had cooked lunch for 15 of us," she said.

"Then suddenly she was ill again. But this time she knew it was her time to go and she wasn't resentful." Six months ago, the family held a belated 40th birthday party for Mrs Ashcroft as she had been too ill to celebrate the milestone when being treated.

Mrs Hadley, 74, chairman of the Halesowen RNLI branch, said it was a memory she would cherish. "Liz was so brave and so strong - she was inspirational - she really did make the most of her life."

"Teaching was her big love, especially encouraging children to enjoy reading."

## Funeral

Mrs Ashcroft died on January 23 and more than 400 people attended her funeral on February 2, which saw her make her final journey to the church in her beloved silver VW camper van.

Mrs Ashcroft, who lived with husband Chris, 13-year-old daughter Maisie and 11-year-old son Sam in Grosvenor Avenue, Kidderminster, bought the van when recuperating from chemotherapy five years ago.



Jean Hadley with daughter Liz Ashcroft, who has died from cancer, aged 45

## Body to look at health

A NEW committee is set to be formed to help oversee health care in Dudley.

The Dudley Consortium of GPs has been chosen to take over responsibility for buying patient services.

Dudley Council is set to agree to establish a shadow health and well-being board.

This would look at how the services are delivered.

The proposals will need to be agreed at a meeting of the full council.

This is being held next Monday.

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## Red tape thwarts clean-up of graffiti

VILLAGE volunteers have been banned from cleaning graffiti from vandalised canal bridges in South Staffordshire because of health and safety red tape.

Members of Wombourne's Best Kept Village committee have been ordered to take specialist training before they can scrub off spray paint. The bridges near Ounsdale Road and Giggerty Lane have been targeted by vandals, but the volunteers still hope to better last year's second place finish in the Staffordshire competition.

### Chemicals

British Waterways, which owns the structures, has not agreed to fund its own clean-up, and fears that chemicals will leak into the water if volunteers do it.

Councillor Jackie Granger added: "We've come to a grinding halt, but we'd like to have it done by the time judges visit in May."

"British Waterways can't do it because of the cost, so we're discussing the possibility of them training us to do it. It is frustrating."

Stephen Hardy, of British Waterways, said: "We welcome the interest that Wombourne residents have shown. However, removing graffiti from canal bridges is a task that requires specialist attention."

"It carries a risk of damaging the historic brickwork or causing pollution and harm to wildlife. Our volunteering team are making efforts to meet the group."

# Link to old priory with naming of new roads

NEW street names for a £37 million housing development on the site of Dudley's former North Priory estate will be inspired by an historic landmark.

Work on the £1m first phase of the 314-home project started last year after a £5.5m grant from the Homes and Community Agency.

There are 100 homes in the first stage. Developer Bromford is building 63 affordable homes, 56 of them for rent and seven for first-time buyers on lower incomes.

Another developer, Keepmoat Homes, will build 37 properties which will be put up for sale.

Dudley Council revealed that it has come up with seven street names for the new development which all have associations with the Priory of St James's, which was founded in the area in the 12th century.

Street names include Bradfield Way, after the Church of Bradfield which was bestowed to the priory, Webley Grove, after John Webley who was the Prior of Dudley between 1535 and 1539, and Shrewsbury Place, after the Prior in 1539-40, Thomas Shrewsbury.

Hackett Drive is named in honour of the Chapel of Cofton Hackett given to the priory.

### Occupied

The ruined Dudley Priory, which has Grade 1 listed status, lies in what is now Priory Park.

Council chiefs say the new housing development is progressing well. The Keepmoat sales centre is set to open in the next few weeks and two show homes will be ready in the spring.

Six properties will be ready for sale in late spring while the first rented properties will be available by summer. All properties in the first phase will be completed by summer 2012.

More than 270 homes which once occupied the site were demolished in 2009 to make way for the new scheme. Developers moved on to the North Priory site in August last year.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for transportation, Councillor Angus Adams was being asked to formally approve the allocation of the new road names this week.

## Group is baking a difference



Joshua Nicholls, aged eight, gets baking with members of the Dudley Bliss Group

CUPCAKES have been decorated by a Black Country family group to raise cash for special care babies.

It is part of Cake A Difference, a national annual fund-raising scheme organised by Bliss, the special care baby charity.

The Dudley Bliss Group decorated the cakes at their regular get-together.

The group provides support and activities for Dudley families who have had an ill or premature baby on a neo-natal unit.

Organiser Joanne Weston said: "Making cupcakes is so much fun. It's even better

that such simple cakes can help to raise money for special care babies." The group is holding a raffle, with prizes including a special occasion cake, and organisers hope to raise £500 for the charity.

Cake sales are being organised across the borough at venues such as Alder Coppice Primary School, in Sedgley.

The group usually meets on the second Saturday of every month at Stourbridge Children and Families Centre. For details, email dudleybliss@live.co.uk or telephone 07815 454457.

## Jobs at risk as tie-up is axed

DROP-IN facilities for young people in Dudley and Stourbridge will continue in a different form after the council decided against renewing a £1.3million contract with a private firm.

Kent-based Prospects Services runs Connexions centres in Stourbridge and Dudley, and the 35 jobs are at risk.

The centres offer advice on careers, education, health, money and relationships. Council bosses say the firm declined a request to cut costs.

Around 35 staff work at the centres in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, and High Street, Stourbridge.

### Learning

Dudley Council has said it will consider taking on around 13 staff from the centres to deal with children who have special learning needs.

Councillor Liz Walker, cabinet member for children's services, said: "The council very much views the work of the Connexions Service as a crucial area of support for young people and has no intention of stopping information, advice and guidance."

"We are committed to ensure the Connexions Service continues and will continue to provide a range of support services to young people."

Prospects Services declined to comment.

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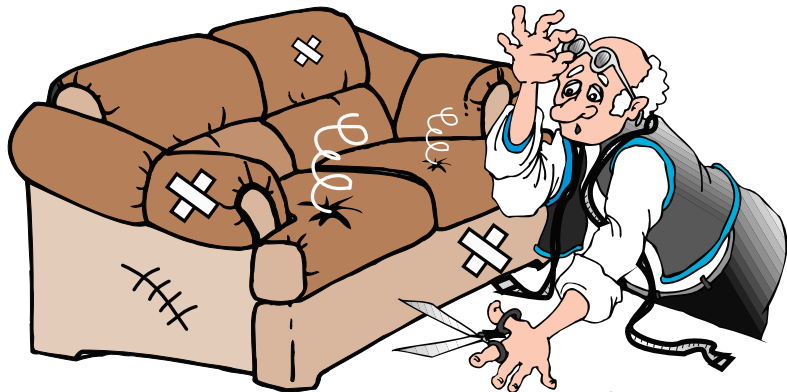
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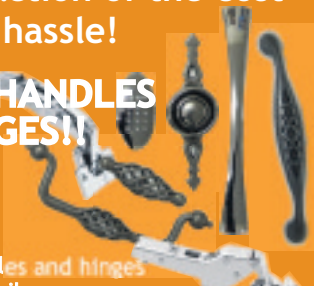
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thechronicle

## Very special celebrations for two local residents



Jack and his late wife Winn back in 1935



Jack Jones with his 'sweetheart', 59-year-old Adele Cleeton

# Pals keeping me young at 103, declares Jack

DATES with much younger "girlfriends" and weekly outings to the pub with the "lads" are helping to keep Jack Jones young at heart – at the age of 103.

The Stourbridge centenarian has three regular dates but says the top of his list and his "sweetheart" is 59-year-old Adele Cleeton, of Kingswinford, who takes him out to the theatre and restaurants and visits him at least once a week.

He met Adele about eight years ago when she was visiting her parents, who used to live near Jack.

"She's my sweetheart and very special to me – it's a bit too late for me to propose but I would if I was a few years younger," said Jack.

"We're going to see Joseph at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton soon."

Adele said: "Jack is the nicest young man that I know and we have a lovely, platonic relationship."

Jack, who lives off Envile Street, Stourbridge, also goes on outings with a 36-year-old from Brierley Hill, who recently took him to the cinema in Merry Hill, and a 72-year-old from Hagley who visits him twice a week and takes him on drives.

### Pint

"The young friends I've got give me an incentive to keep going," he said.

Jack popped into his favourite pub, The Greyhound in Norton Road, for his weekly free pint of ale on Wednesday, along with his "chauffeur", 90-year-old Harold Haywood, and "young" friend Howard Cartwright, 85.

Staff and customers at The Greyhound put out



Jack Jones in the 1940s

banners and a cake to mark his latest birthday – which he reached on Saturday, February 12.

The pub awarded him a free pint of bitter once a week for life two years ago – and the West Bromwich Albion fan still claims it every Wednesday.

Jack and Harold, of Farmcroft Road, Wollscote, Stourbridge, worked together as long distance lorry drivers for 46 years, first at Taylor Law in Stourbridge and later at the Bluebird toffee factory in Hun-



Jack, aged 103, celebrates his special birthday

nington, near Hale Hackman's Gate, both country working. He did not stop driving until he was aged 96. When he was 17 and had passed his driving test he says he wed in 1939 and had "sprouted" his wings and been married almost 50 years when she died.

## Sugary tea's the sweet secret of Florence, 103

DOUBLE celebrations were held last week when Florence Reeve became a great grandmother for the third time – on her 103rd birthday.

Her birthday, on Valentine's Day, was even more special with the birth of great-grandson Yuzuna in Paris that morning.

Mrs Reeve's day started with morning coffee with family at the Queen's Hotel, Belbroughton. In the afternoon a party with entertainment was held at Breach House residential home, in Holy Cross Lane, Belbroughton, where she has lived for the last six years.

The Stourbridge branch of Waitrose provided an extra

surprise with flowers, champagne and a card along with the birthday cake ordered from the store. Her two daughters Carole, aged 72, and Susan, 63, together with 65-year-old son John, were delighted by the gesture.

Daughter Carole Swingle, said: "Everyone shared the delicious cake which had a token four candles for Florence to blow out – there wasn't really room for 103."

Mrs Reeve also has three grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. She was born in Coventry on February 14, 1908 – the same year the first car was put into production by American Henry T Ford.

Mrs Reeve worked as a

weaver and embroiderer for firms in the Midlands.

She married Phillip in 1934. The couple moved to Worcestershire in 1970, where they both enjoyed walking and modern sequence dancing.

After her husband died in 1994, Florence moved to Wolverley, near Kidderminster, before transferring to Breach House.

Mrs Reeve puts her age down to sipping countless brews with three spoons of sugar. Mrs Swingle said: "The family joke that she is preserved in syrup like a tinned peach!"

"She's not had an easy life, for example she lived through the blitz in Coventry. But this has led to great spirit and determination."



Florence Reeve marks the big day

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Singing legend Dusty Springfield

# Sing up with a tribute to soul legend

By Alex Wainwright

alex.wainwright@expressandstar.co.uk

A MUSICAL DIRECTOR wants the people of Dudley borough to dust off their vocal cords and get involved in an all-star tribute at the Royal Albert Hall.

Matthew Jones, of Matthew Jones Music Ltd, is forming a choir to take part in a tribute celebrating the life and music of Dusty Springfield and raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

There will be two choirs, one from Birmingham and one from London, to back a full orchestra and a host of stars both past and present.

Mr Jones, of Matthew Jones Music Ltd, is looking for 100 people aged 16 and above to join the Birmingham choir.

"People of all ages and abilities can take part," added 25-year-old Mr Jones. "I'm a big believer that everyone can learn to sing."

He will be arranger and musical director for the show and has had a big involvement in the Dusty Springfield scene, once performing at a convention.

"I'm honoured to be asked to do it," he said.

The concert, For Dusty, acknowledges the star's battle with the breast cancer which killed her - and the Macmillan charity is very important to Mr Jones.

"My mum died at 47 with cancer, so it's something that's very close to my heart," he said.

"Doing this is a win-win situation, it means the audience can have a great night and we can raise money for a good cause." A project last



Matthew Jones

year, Heart of Gold, raised more than £10,000 for the British Heart Foundation.

Mr Jones formed and prepared choirs for Heart of Gold, an album featuring soul singer Madeline Bell and a production of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana at Birmingham Town Hall.

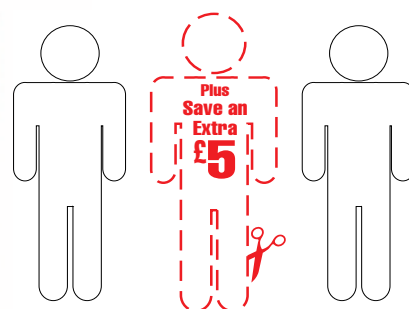
Choir rehearsals will begin in April in Erdington, Birmingham, with full training.

The concert is on Thursday, May 5 and coach travel will be provided. Details: 0121 6322330 or 07941 918688.



The tribute will take place at London's Royal Albert Hall

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## The pies have it and it's all for charity



Copthorne Hotel head chef Steve Sutton and Dudley Group of Hospitals fundraiser Karen Phillips getting ready for the charity pie-eating contest

A HOSPITAL charity is appealing for Desperate Dads with huge appetites to get stuck into its latest fundraising challenge.

The Dudley Group of Hospitals Charity is holding a pie-eating contest on March 24 at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill.

Contestants will have to munch their way through a meat pie, and the first to finish will win a leisure club membership at the hotel. Registration is £25 which includes a pie meal for the contestant and three supporters. The evening will be rounded off with a prize quiz.

Hotel general manager Matt Ward said: "We will be working with the Dudley Group of Hospitals Charity throughout the year on various exciting projects."

"The pie-eating contest is a hilarious event to get the ball rolling, and we hope for a great turnout."

Charity fundraising co-ordinator Karen Phillips said she hoped the contest would be held regularly. Call her on 01384 456111 to take part.

# Russells Hall tops list for cancelling surgery

DUDLEY'S Russell Hall Hospital heads the West Midlands list for cancelling operations at the last minute, according to new figures. Staff cancelled 319 appointments between October and December 2010, compared with 121 in neighbouring Sandwell and West Birmingham Trust, which includes Rowley Regis Hospital.

Non-clinical causes of cancellations across the Midlands were cited as staff shortages, increased emergency activity and a lack of beds.

During the same three-month period, 91 procedures were called off by Mid-Staffordshire Hospital trust, 84 by The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals, 25 by Walsall Hospitals and 152 by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said: "We make every effort to carry out operations on the day they are planned. However, there are some occasions when this is not possible."

"Reasons include an emergency during a surgery session, running out of time to carry out the operation, or a consultant or anaesthetist being unavailable."

"We did experience a higher number of cancelled operations during December, in particular due to capacity and demand."

The chief operating officer of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, Richard Kirby, said: "We work hard to keep cancellations to a minimum."

### Apologise

"When procedures for patients who are fit for surgery are cancelled it is usually due to other operations turning out to be more complex and taking more theatre time than expected, or higher than expected levels of emergency activity leading to shortages of beds or theatre time."

Medical director of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, Manjit Obhrai, said: "We regret that some operations do have to be cancelled and apologise."

Reasons included a lack of available beds at Stafford Hospital, he added.

## Polished speaker on mansions

AMBLECOTE History Society is to put mansions in the Black Country under the spotlight at its next meeting.

The event will be held at the Church Hall, in Vicarage Road, Ambleside, from 7.30pm on Wednesday, March 9.

Historian Ian Bott will lead the talk giving insight into the region's grandest homes. Visitors are welcome to attend the event for a charge for more information on the group, telephone Helen Cook on 01384 395034.

## Drain covers bill soars to £18,000

DUDLEY taxpayers paid more than £18,000 replacing stolen drain covers during the past 12 months.

Since last February, 42 covers have been taken by thieves looking to sell them as scrap.

Dudley Council says it is installing covers with hinged grates that cannot be lifted out. It is also looking at using Smart Water technology to mark them invisibly and make them easier to trace.

Council spokesman Chris Howes said theft of drain covers posed a risk to road users and pedestrians as

well as being an unnecessary burden on council taxpayers.

If anyone sees suspicious behaviour they should report it to police or to Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345, he added.

Metal thieves continue to strip church roofs of lead, steal garden taps and beer kegs. Copper piping, catalytic converters and tools have also been targeted.

They stole overhead tramway wiring at the Black Country Living Museum. Vehicles are out of action as repair work is expected to take months.

## Zoo art offers food for thought



Education presenter Kellie Piper admires the art in the revamped restaurant at Dudley Zoological Gardens

DINERS at Dudley Zoo will be able to eat in style thanks to a £80,000 revamp of the restaurant.

The restaurant in the historic Queen Mary Ballroom now has new flooring and furniture and has been decorated throughout. The central dance floor has also been sand back and refurbished.

To brighten up the walls, staff have used 13 blown-up photographs from the zoo's 2011 calendar. They show a range of zoo animals and their favourite British foods.

Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock said: "The zoo has bought the very best of British food for our animals since the zoo opened in 1937."

"The calendar was inspired by our involvement with British Food Fortnight which highlights the wide range of excellent food-stuffs on our doorstep. The images are superb."

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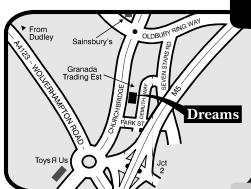
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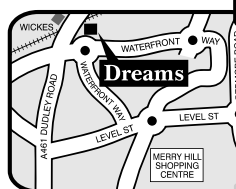
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The Stitchcraft show - Sewing for Pleasure - has more than 150 exhibitors and workshops including Heirloom Machine Stitching and Jane Greenoff's Itch to Stitch Workshop.

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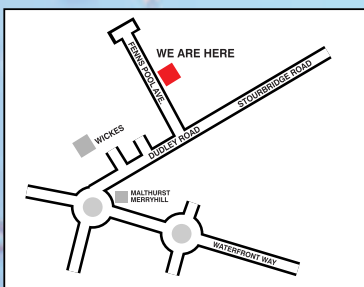
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9ft	2744	322.00	334.00	341.00	348.00	408.00	415.00	430.00	444.00	480.00	502.00	507.00
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## Fans flock to see author

**BEST-SELLING** children's author Dame Jacqueline Wilson met hundreds of her devoted fans when she spent a day at a Black Country school.

Jacqueline has been a regular visitor to the Dudley area since she launched Dudley Children's Book Group in 1998.

### Latest

She was welcomed back to the Earls High School, Halesowen, to talk about her life, her work and her latest book, *Lily Alone*.

It is currently top seller in the children's books lists.

Jacqueline spent an afternoon last week in a question and answer session with 60 pupils from Halesowen's Hasbury Church of England School and Ham Dingle Primary, Pedmore, Stourbridge.

In the evening 290 guests, including teachers, parents, librarians and school governors, also questioned Jacqueline.

She always wanted to write, and produced her first "novel" at the age of nine, filling numerous exercise books. She was a journalist in her teens.



Jacqueline Wilson with, from left, Hasbury CoE Primary School pupils Chloe Whitehouse and Suzanne Dear and Ham Dingle Primary School pupils Beth Morgan, Harrison Martin-Lawes, and Amber Loyndes

## Too much litter on buses, says survey

### The Boys are back in town



Matthew Sheldon, Joshua Tilley, and Chelsie Tucker with the 4th Dudley Boys Brigade and Girls Association at the new base

A BLACK COUNTRY boys brigade has returned to its first home, seven years after moving to make way for redevelopment.

The 4th Dudley Boys Brigade had to go to Blackheath in 2004 after closure of Noah's Ark

Methodist Church, Netherton, but is now at Trinity Church in Church Road.

The Brigade is open to anyone between the age of five and 18; turn up on Tuesday nights at 7pm.

**RUDE** drivers, litter-strewn floors and too many pushchairs being allowed on board are blighting bus travel for passengers in the Black Country, a survey has revealed.

A restriction on the number of pushchairs, more cleaning between journeys and shorter bus routes were highlighted as possible improvements.

The survey was carried out by Bus Users UK with 85 people in Dudley to give a snapshot of the standard of services in the region. Results were revealed at a meeting of the Dudley Transport Users Forum last week.

Among the key issues was too many pushchairs being allowed on board buses, leading to a lack of space for other passengers.

### Smoking

Others said drivers were rude and did not pull close enough to the kerbs or lower the floor for passengers to get on and off.

Buses were also said to be dirty with litter even first thing in the morning, especially between Dudley and Birmingham.

Others said some passengers were flouting the smoking ban. National Express West Midlands, the only bus operator to attend, said action had already been taken on its buses.

Spokesman Phil Wilkes told the meeting that drivers had been told to allow only two opened-out pushchairs at any one time. Anyone else getting on with a buggy would be asked to fold it up. "We also review the standards of our drivers," he added. "Most are excellent but there are some on the periphery and we are working with those."

Mr Wilkes said they would look into increasing how often buses were cleaned on some routes.

## New Sikh temple is passed

A FORMER industrial site in Tividale is set to be transformed into a Sikh gurdwara after a £100,000 scheme was backed by planners.

Members of the Gurdwara Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji say that they have outgrown their base at Dudley Road West.

They now want to redevelop vacant Britannic House and land in nearby Britannia Street and Upper Chapel Street.

A prayer hall, community hall,

classrooms and kitchen are included in the plans.

The new gurdwara is being created to deal with the growing population at the existing site.

### Structural

Balbinder Singh, a committee member at the gurdwara, said they have already bought the site, which includes the old Britannic House, for £240,000 – much of it paid for by donations from the congregation.

"We have quite a lot of activities

for youngsters and can have 150 people using the place in a day," he said.

At least another £100,000 would need to be spent for the site to open this spring.

A statement to Sandwell Council submitted by Wolverhampton structural engineers Reade Buray Associates said: "The proposed development will both provide suitable future accommodation for the Sikh community and release the site on Dudley Road West for other purposes."

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Optional excursions to places of interest are also available to book.

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This cruise around the IJsselmeer and its tributaries will reveal a variety of attractions that are all within easy reach of the berthing ports. The quaint harbours and fishing villages are attractions in themselves with their rows of brightly painted gabled buildings. Who would have thought that the forests of Gelderland conceal priceless works of art, or that the medieval town of Franeker houses one of the world's oldest working planetariums? These are just two surprises waiting to be revealed before viewing the springtime splendour of Keukenhof Gardens.

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## thechronicle

# Mayflower sets sail on return trip to homeland

AN ANTIQUES expert has returned from the United States to her hometown of Hagley to set up an on-line business.

Susan Harrington-James has officially launched Mayflower Antiques from her new base in West Hagley.

The 60-year-old specialises in rare 16th, 17th, and early 18th century pieces. To help launch the new venture, Mayflower is already displaying some of its pieces at the Bailiff's House bar and Bistro, High Street, Bewdley - a building dating back to 1610.

Susan, who left for the States 10 years ago, said: "I not only hope to establish Mayflower across the West Midlands, where there is a growing band of interested antique collectors, but also to establish us internationally."

"Antique collectors from across the UK and Europe will be coming to Hagley to view our antiques and I am sure that this will also be great news for the local economy."

### Dream

"Collecting antiques has always been a passion, so turning that into a serious business is a dream come true."

"I have been lucky to travel the world over the years and during that time developed a real excitement for rare 16th and 17th century pieces."

The business has built a wide selection of unusual treasures and I wanted to share these with as many people as possible by publicly dis-

By Sarah Hazelwood

[s.hazelwood@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:s.hazelwood@expressandstar.co.uk)

playing them in Bewdley. "I hope local people and visitors to the town will get to enjoy them."

Susan, who has moved from her home in New England, also decided to relocate to the West Midlands to be closer to her family.

To view the on-line shop visit the website [www.mayflower-antiques.co.uk](http://www.mayflower-antiques.co.uk)



Susan Harrington-James with one of her antiques

# Teens can check on the options

TEENAGERS in Kidderminster with disabilities are being invited to a networking event next month to discuss different services open to them after they finish school.

"Life after school" is designed to give young people with physical disabilities and/or learning difficulties a flavour of local facilities and encourage them to start thinking about their options.

The event, organised by county council-backed advisory service Connexions, will see a host of different organisations represented to give advice.

The networking event, now in its fifth year, will feature local colleges, including residential establishments, day care centres, training providers and information groups. It is also viewed as an

opportunity for parents and guardians to swap advice. Connexions personal adviser Chris Boxall said: "This evening offers people the chance to explore ideas in a relaxed and informal way."

It will be held at Kidderminster Youth House, Bromsgrove Street, on Tuesday, March 8 (6-8pm). Details: 01562 820110 during office hours.

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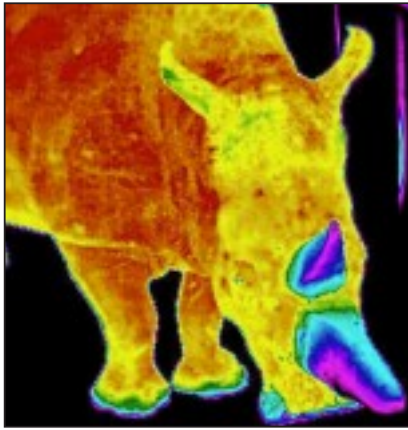
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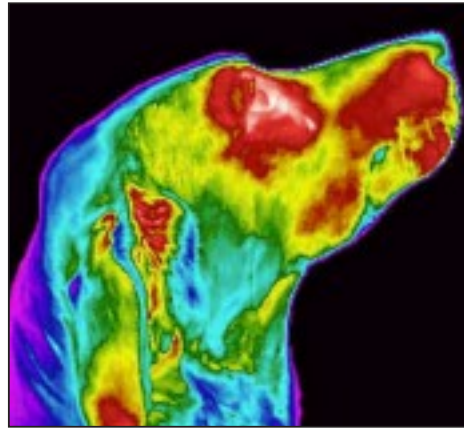
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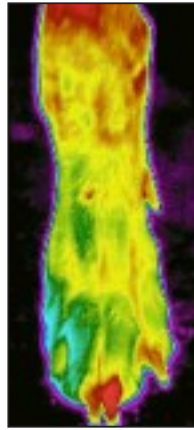
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Heat focused in a claw

# Heat is on as Helen finds the diagnosis

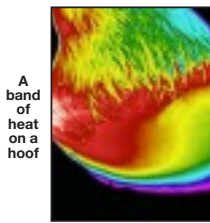
A KIDDERMINSTER woman is turning up the heat with a new veterinary diagnostic tool.

Helen Morrell hopes to see the Veterinary Thermal Imaging service rolled out across the country.

It is claimed to be the UK's first such all-species device and can be used on all sorts of creatures, from cats, dogs and horses through livestock and on to zoo or marine life.

The VTI provides a visual management tool for diagnosing, monitoring and treating injury, illness and disease.

Using a specially designed



A band of heat on a hoof

camera it detects heat emitted from the animal, turning it into electrical pulses.

These pulses are assigned a colour, depending on the temper-

ature readings – the various colours will flag up problem areas.

Use of the device quickly pinpoints where an animal is in pain, limiting distress.

Veterinary Thermal Imaging (VTI) works under a code of conduct prescribed by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and is an extension to diagnostic tools such as x-rays, MRI scans and Ultrasound.

## Course

Mrs Morrell, founder of VTI and a veterinary physiotherapist, was the first person from the UK to be accepted onto the thermal imaging course at the

## Veterinary tool that shows pain hotspots

University of Florida's vet school last year.

"VTI is a great opportunity for UK animal professionals and owners to use a service that is non-invasive, emits no radiation, can be repeated as often as required and can eliminate the

need for other expensive investigations," said 35-year-old Mrs Morrell.

"VTI is an effective, low cost, mobile solution that reveals where an animal's problems lie, fast and without causing pain or distress.

## Traditional

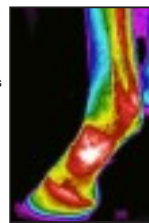
"We don't replace traditional veterinary services but rather enhance them," added Mrs Morrell, who used to live in Kidderminster and Bliss Gate but is now in Oxfordshire with her husband and two-year-old son.

"Whilst most diagnostic tests focus on specific anatomical areas, and require a degree of



Helen Morrell with dog Darcy. Picture: Professional Images

Hotspots on the leg of an animal



tion," said Mrs Morrell, who is looking at franchising the service.

"This being the case, you can apply the stitch in time philosophy, hopefully saving money, stress and your animal's discomfort."

It's claimed that a full VTI appraisal can be cheaper than an x-ray. It also pinpoints issues for treatment or further tests, determines the extent of an injury, allows an owner to monitor treatment progress and can even pinpoint the reason for behaviour problems, many of them being seated in pain. More details on website - [www.veterinary-thermal-imaging.com](http://www.veterinary-thermal-imaging.com)

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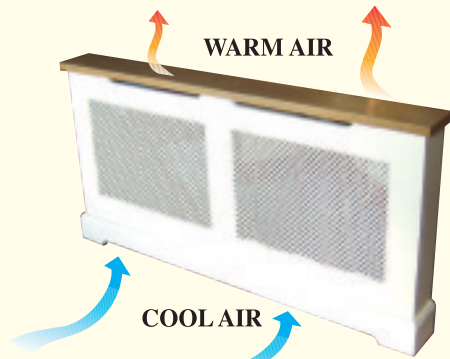
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## HOME

thechronicle

# Get heat under your feet for a warm glow

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The most important rooms in the home at that time are the bathroom and kitchen.

Why turn the heating on all over the house just to heat two rooms?

With underfloor heating on timers you can make sure these rooms are ready for you every morning, says the Tile Association.

The layout of most kitchens, the classic U shape being acknowledged as the best for functionality, means that whoever is working in the kitchen is at the opposite end of the room to the radiator.

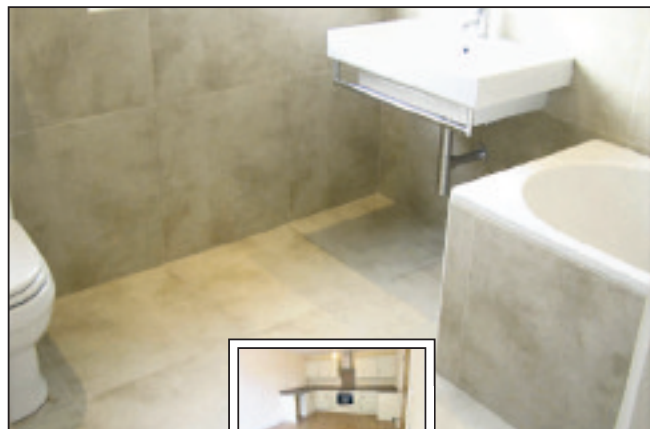
### Ideal

With underfloor heating you can have the heat just where you want it even in bathrooms and kitchens where wall space for radiators is limited.

Underfloor heating is particularly good in hallways where the linear nature of space can mean that the heat source is at one end of the hall and the cold comes in at the other.

Tiling is ideal for hallways as all the effects of muddy kid's boots, dripping dogs, and leaking carrier bags can be removed with just a quick mop.

You can even install it outside, association member Heat Mat



Underfloor heating is ideal in the bathroom or the kitchen

Ltd says: "We are increasingly being asked to provide heating systems beneath tiles outside, on patios etc. to keep them free of ice and snow."

Tile manufacturer member Porcelanosa also get calls for heating under their special slip resistant exterior tiles which they say "would be extremely useful with this snow and ice".

N&C Nicobond says: "Under-tile heating is an energy efficient solution to heating as it spreads the heat evenly across the room. It is quick and easy to install".

Underfloor heating is particularly good with tiled floors as it is simple to install at the same time

as the tiles are laid and only adds a few millimetres to the floor height. Tiles are a great at storing and conducting heat. Early storage heaters were just metal boxes full of bricks and like bricks tiles are made of clay which stores heat and gives it off gradually.

For advice on underfloor heating and tiles consult a member of the association, the trade body for the wall and floor tile industry.

To find a reliable experienced tile fixer or a knowledgeable retailer go to the association website at [www.tiles.org.uk](http://www.tiles.org.uk) and search by postcode.



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**Type of Business**

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**Established**

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**Who's in Charge**

John Brown and John Hodgkiss

**Location**

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fax: 01384 484886

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John Brown managing director, centre, pictured with the Merry Hill Windows Team, based in Delph Road, Brierley Hill



The dedicated staff include Lynn Downes and Jane Tibbitts who take care of administration matters at Merry Hill Windows

**M**ERRY Hill Windows is a leading manufacturer, supplier and installer of double glazed uPVC windows, doors, porches and conservatories.

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# the pulse



Ben Drew – better known as Plan B

## There is Plan B for sell-out gig

FRESH from winning the award for best British male solo artist at the Brits, Ben Drew – better known as Plan B – will be playing in front of a sold out capacity audience at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, March 3. It may be the last time many fans get to see him in a medium-sized venue before the arena tours.

Emerging from London's grime music scene, Plan B became massively popular in 2010 thanks to the million-selling album *The Defamation of Strickland Banks*, which blends rap with potent songwriting.

The single *She Said* was part of the year's essential soundtrack and *Stay Too Long* was a hit on the dancefloors. Meanwhile, he is about to release his latest single from the album, *Writing's On The Wall*.

Singer-songwriter Liam Bailey, who is being championed by Amy Winehouse and is signed to her music label, will be supporting Plan B at the Civic.

## Flawless display on show

**B** RITAIN'S Got Talent finalists Flawless bring their dazzling dance skills to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Friday, March 4. The 10-man troupe, pictured right, from London present their Chasing The Dream spectacular, which showcases their talents ranging from street dance and hip hop to jazz and modern interpretation.

Less acrobatic than the other big dance act Diversity they are, ironically, more diverse in the genres they represent and no less impressive with dynamic styles performed with precision to a funky soundtrack.

Tickets are priced £19.50, available on 0870 320 7000 or online at [www.wolvscivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvscivic.co.uk)



Brit winner Cee Lo Green will be appearing at Birmingham

## Brit winner Cee Lo ready for Brum date

SOUL man Cee Lo Green, who won the international male solo artist award at the Brits, performs his rescheduled gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy on March 28.

The American had a massive hit with *Forget You* (and its expletive strewn original version) and his album *The Lady Killer*.

Other gigs to watch out for: reunited Boyzone at the LG Arena at the NEC on Wednesday, featuring a tribute to the late Stephen Gately; Hawaiian singing sensation Bruno Mars has sold out his Birmingham HMV Institute gig on March 15; Adele has added concerts at Wol-

verhampton Civic Hall on September 10 and 11 to follow her HMV Institute gig on April 18; Welsh rockers Manic Street Preachers play Wolverhampton Civic Hall on May 19; Welsh rock hero Gruff Rhys, of The Super Furry Animals, gigs with surf rockers Y Niwl at Birmingham Glee Club this Sunday; double Brit winner Tinie Tempah will fill Birmingham's O2 tonight (Thursday); megastars to announce shows at the LG Arena are Neil Diamond (June 28) and Dolly Parton (September 2). Old punks will be at the Robin, Bilston, on Thursday (tonight) for Anti-Nowhere League.



TV listings start – page 24

**YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING**



Theatre and show round-up – page 23



Jim Davidson's new play – page 28

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# Song and dance at their best in shows

**S**PRING is in the air at Birmingham Hippodrome where the Birmingham Royal Ballet perform Frederick Ashton's brightly coloured rural idyll *La Fille mal gardee* from Wednesday to Saturday, March 2 to 5.

A beauty upsets the apple cart when she falls in love with a farm lad in this enchanting family favourite ballet. When producer and director Bill Kenwright brings his production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, on Tuesday and audiences will undoubtedly recognize the young man in the leading role.

Keith Jack was one of the most popular finalists in the hit BBC series *Any Dream Will Do*.

Watched by millions every Saturday night, the show was produced to find a leading man for Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph revival in the West End production. Young Glaswegian



Keith Jack plays Joseph



*La Fille mal gardee* - Michael O'Hare as Widow Simone with artists of Birmingham Royal Ballet. Photograph Bill Cooper

Keith charmed audiences week after week with his vocal talents, finally coming in a close second to Lee Mead.

He went on to play the Narrator in the UK tour of Joseph and returns for the 2011 tour in the lead role.

The Scottish singer and actor has appeared as Aladdin at the King's Theatre Glasgow, the title role in Peter Pan in Aberdeen and created the lead role of Charlie in the new musical *One Night at the Lichfield Street Theatre* to Saturday night.

He has released two albums. His debut called *This Time* went into the Top 40. His most recent album *An Evening at the Musicals* was released last year.

He will be wearing the coat of many colours at the Grand for six days. *Wild At Heart* actress Dawn Steele leads an all-star cast in Agatha Christie's *Verdict*, which had its first performance at the Grand more than 50 years ago, at the Lichfield Street theatre to Saturday night.

Rachel Kavanaugh directs Lucy Caldwell's *Notes To Future Self*, about the daughters of a 'New Age' globe-trotter who return to Birmingham,

which gets its premiere at the Mac in Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston, on Thursday, March 3, and runs to March 12 before touring.

Dudley's most famous son, comedian Lenny Henry will be bringing his musical memories from *Cradle to Hallelujah* to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Monday and will be back in the area for a gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on March 10.

Other comedy highlights include musical surrealism from Boothby Graffoe on Tuesday at the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton; Geordie comedienne Sarah Millican has sold out her Chatterbox dates at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow (Friday) and at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on March 6; and Craig Campbell has sold out his Slade Rooms gig in Wolverhampton tomorrow.

The region's big musical blockbuster is *The Sound of Music*, with Jason Donovan and Verity Rushworth, which continues at Hanley's Regent Theatre in the Potteries until March 5. Disney *On Ice* present *Disneyland Adventure* at the LG Arena of the NEC this week with last performances on Sunday.

## No more burger van but Angelos is on the road

Shooting Star sensation Angelos Epithemiou is coming to the Black Country for the first time, as he tells **LEON BURAKOWSKI** via a dodgy mobile line

GRECO-LONDON former burger van vendor Angelos Epithemiou, the comedy creation of Dan Renton Skinner, is making one of his rare journeys outside the confines of the M25 to bring his distinctive wit and wisdom to the folk of Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

I caught up with Angelos via his dodgy mobile on a noisy street in the capital and he told me that though he had been to Birmingham before, he had never been to the Black Country - "though I did once visit Trinidad".

His recently found fame via the series of Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer's Shooting Stars spoof panel show, first as a panellist in place of Johnny Vegas and now as the keeper of the scores.

He says it beats dispensing burgers and bacon sandwiches. "OMG! The burger van has been destroyed by mysterious forces," says Angelos. "There is no more burger van, so thanks for bringing that up."

"I got four grand on the insurance and I spent that on a tusk that I bought off eBay. Everyone's into elephants these days. It's a plastic tusk."

Mortimer 'discovered' Angelos when presenting him with a mobile caterer of the year award.

What did Angelos think about his madcap hosts Reeves and Mortimer? "They're a pair of idiots basi-

cally but I keep them in order and they pay all right."

He has other business ideas, including his own version of Poundland.

He's already got some wet-suits that he will be knocking out at £30 a piece.

"They were in a shop that got flooded. They've shrunk but they're all right," he says.



Dan Renton Skinner - AKA Angelos Epithemiou

Asked if he will miss the focus of his affections on Shooting Stars, Ulrika Jonsson, while on the road, Angelos says: "Well, yeah, but I've got all sorts of cameras set up to look at her."

Catch up with Angelos Neil Epithemiou at the Wulfrun Hall on Wednesday, March 9, or at the HMV Institute in Birmingham on Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12.

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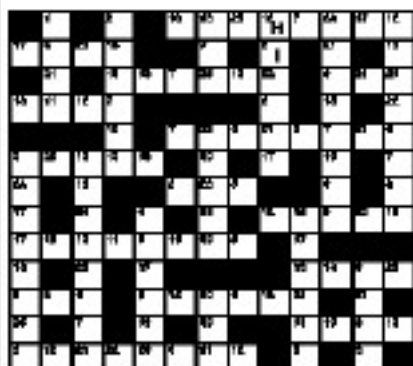
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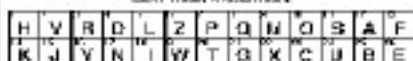
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## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a letter in the word. The grid is a 10x10 grid. The letters are arranged in a 10x10 grid. The letters are arranged in a 10x10 grid. The letters are arranged in a 10x10 grid.



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Classic double crossword on cryptic clues - both in the same grid.

## Cryptic clues:

Across

1. (11) A good

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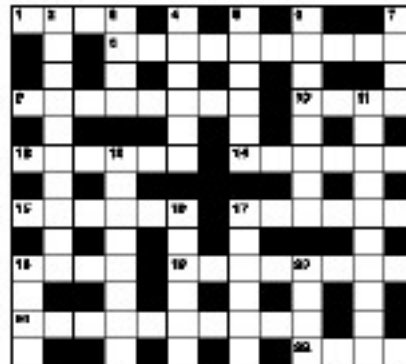
26. (11) A good

27. (11) A good

28. (11) A good

29. (11) A good

30. (11) A good



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

Across: 1. (11) A good, 2. (11) A good, 3. (11) A good, 4. (11) A good, 5. (11) A good, 6. (11) A good, 7. (11) A good, 8. (11) A good, 9. (11) A good, 10. (11) A good, 11. (11) A good, 12. (11) A good, 13. (11) A good, 14. (11) A good, 15. (11) A good, 16. (11) A good, 17. (11) A good, 18. (11) A good, 19. (11) A good, 20. (11) A good, 21. (11) A good, 22. (11) A good, 23. (11) A good, 24. (11) A good, 25. (11) A good, 26. (11) A good, 27. (11) A good, 28. (11) A good, 29. (11) A good, 30. (11) A good.

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



## Circlegram

For each question made with a letter, the letters in the circle can be arranged in four words each. Can you find the words?



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# Comedy is not black and white for Jim and Matt

Unlikely partners in laughter tell  
**LEON BURAKOWSKI** how they developed mutual respect

**C**ONTROVERSIAL comedian Jim Davidson has been accused of being racist, sexist and even anti-disabled but he will be taking the accusations head on in Wolverhampton this spring.

The 58-year-old East End comic has been to Wolverhampton many times, he married (and then divorced) a Wolverhampton girl, fourth wife Tracy Hilton.

But this time instead of a comedy gig at the Civic Hall, he will be treading the boards at the Grand Theatre, starring in a play he wrote himself which looks at the serious side of comedy.

The comic with four ex-wives and several children to support, and who was nearly bankrupted by an eye-watering tax bill, is challenging audiences to examine what makes them laugh in *Stand Up And Be Counted!* at the Grand from April 9, for a week.

Written during Davidson's self-imposed exile in Dubai, he will be performing stand-up comedy and looking for lots of laughs.

However, it will not be as Jim but in character as washed-up old comic Eddie Pearce, a character so loathsome and bigoted that he makes Davidson look like Eddie Izzard.

And he will be facing competition for laughs from a hard-hitting young black comedian, Earl T. Laurence, played by Matt Blaize, who is a star of the London stand-up comedy circuit.

Other characters include a gay icon and a reality TV bimbo thrown together with the two comedians to perform at an AIDS victims benefit concert.

Davidson and Blaize may seem as different as Chalky and cheese but the two have developed a mutual respect, though that was not always the case.

"I remember Jim on TV when I was a kid. Whenever he did that exaggerated 'Chalky' character voice I would get hell in the playground the next day," says

Matt. The two met when playing different parts of the same venue, Davidson in the big room upstairs and Blaize in the small comedy club.

"Matt came up to me and gave me a stiff talking to about old school comedians, like young guys do. I said 'oh b\*\*\*\*s' what do you know?'" says Jim.

"Then we actually got to know each other. I went to see his act and I did find him funny. It's as if he makes it up at that moment. Matt's stuff was genuine, from the heart, and I believed every word.

## Insurance

"The fact that he had 150 people downstairs while I had 2,000 upstairs, that's going to change one day. He will be ringing me up saying 'do you want a support gig'... this is an insurance policy!"

When he needed a sparring partner for his play, Blaize was the natural choice but he got a baptism of fire, preparing for the play and honing his act in front of Davidson's audience as a

surprise support act. "Matt's been working my lot and, I tell you, some of those front rows... you couldn't make one proper human out of the whole lot of them," says Jim.

East Ender Blaize has 10 years experience compared to the older comic's five decades in show business.

Asked why he put himself in front of a potentially hostile audience, he explains: "It is very easy to preach to the converted. What's controversial about saying things to people who want to hear it - try saying it to people who don't want to hear it. Yeah, but I haven't yet got Jim to perform in Brixton in front of 500 angry Rastafarians."

Blaize appreciates Davidson's craft, his timing and way he can work a crowd and Davidson responds: "Matt is a better comic than me when I started out. I just did joke after joke after joke."

"Cartoon black accent, silly Irish accent. Now I've been doing it for 45 years and I am a good performer technically." The comedian, who first found

fame on TV talent show *New Faces* in the early 1970s, revealed that it was money and girls that fired his ambition.

"If I saw a good comic then, my first thought was 'I've got to be funnier than him', he says. "I have been a star not because of my ability to make people laugh but because of my ability to make other people money."

"But after *New Faces* I told my mum she would never have to work again, and she didn't... the lazy cow!"

## Shocking

The play is about the clash of culture, generations and race but both men agree people should think about what makes them laugh. Matt says: "Comedy is going full circle with comedians prepared to say the most shocking things but that's OK because it's 'ironic'."

Jim adds: "The difference between me and the character I play is that Eddie doesn't know what is offensive. I do. What we say on stage has consequences."



Matt Blaize and Jim Davidson at The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, where they will be appearing in Davidson's play *Stand Up And Be Counted*

**Agatha Christie's Verdict, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre**  
VERDICT is a curio for Christie fans. More melodrama than mystery, this play thoughtfully ponders the meaning of love and ethics. There is a murder but we know whodunnit. The 1958-set story concerns a brilliant Hungarian professor exiled in London, his chronically ill wife and the self-sacrificing cousin who tends to her. Enter a dangerously determined young student who has decided that she loves the professor.

## Three Phantoms Birmingham Hippodrome

THREE artists who have, between them, clocked up 3,000 performances as *The Phantom of the Opera*, and one of the original Christines, joined forces for a one-night concert of songs from the shows that brought West End sparkle to the Hippodrome.

Two of the Phantoms, Sunday's show organiser and MC Earl Carpenter and the current keeper of the white mask at Her Majesty's Theatre, John Owen Jones, are no strangers to Birmingham, having played the leading roles of Javert and Jean Valjean respectively in the 25th anniversary touring production of *Les Misérables* in the city a year ago. The third Phantom, Matthew Cammelle, also had happy memories of Brum having met his wife in a past production at the Hippodrome.

Christine was the operatic soprano Rebecca Gaines, who originated the role of Cosette in *Les Mis* and then played Christine opposite Michael

## The Sound of Music Regent Theatre, Stoke

HOW do you solve a problem like replacing a TV famous Maria? Get in Verity Rushworth. Problem solved.

The former Emmerdale actress has stepped into the role recently vacated by Connie Fisher and has lit up Andrew Lloyd Webber's touring revival of the blockbuster Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

The production's star name is Jas-on Donovan as Captain von Trapp, who got lots of coos and one excited "here he is" from the many ladies in the Stoke audience, but it's Verity's energetic, funny and fine voiced Maria who makes the show. Her scenes with a charming troupe of von Trapp children, led by Claire Fish-

## Reviews

There is one twist but no puzzles for the little grey cells and the play is a slow burner. The drama gets intense. Christie never wrote another play like this, was she exorcising personal demons? It is well acted by the cast of ten with Ali Bastian particularly good as deadly deb Helen Rolander. Robert Duncan's professor had angst but lacked charisma. Harry Potter fans will spot Matthew Lewis (Neville Longbottom) as a student. Verdict continues to Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

Crawford and Colm Wilkinson's Phantoms. They were joined by the excellent 21-piece Concert Philharmonic under the baton of former Phantom musical director Anthony Gabriele.

The concert was presented with light-hearted humour, contrasting with the passionate intensity of many of the songs. The blockbusters were saved until after the interval. Then it was time for songs from *Les Mis* and both Phantom shows plus an interesting selection from some of the Phantom of the Opera musicals that preceded Andrew Lloyd Webber's definitive final version.

The showstoppers came from Owen Jones, getting massive applause for his gorgeous tender version of *Bring Him Home* from *Les Mis* and a soaring *I Hear You Sing Once More* from Phantom sequel *Love Never Dies*. Then all three Phantoms joined forces for a very special version of the Phantom's best known song, *Music Of The Night*.

den as Liesl, are delightful. Donovan's starchy Austrian/Australian accented captain is a solid leading man but I was underwhelmed by his big number *Edelweiss*.

There is excellent support, both in the acting and singing departments, from Jacinta Mulcahy as the glamorous Baroness Schraeder, Martin Callaghan as the roguish entrepreneur Max and Marilyn Hill Smith's operatic Mother Abbess. At one point her *Climb Every Mountain* seemed to blow away the abbey walls!

While it can never eclipse the movie version with that classic performance from Julie Andrews, this former London Palladium favourite still has a big production feel.

It runs until March 5.

LB

# Home of Property

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**The top property guide for Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Kidderminster**

## Family home with a private rear garden

TRANSFORMED by the current vendors, number 25 Ward Grove in Lanesfield, just off Birmingham New Road, is an exceptionally well presented, two bedroomed semi and is on the market with Taylors estate agent for offers in the region of £116,450.

New to the market this month, the house includes gas central heating and uPVC double-glazed windows and doors throughout.

### Hedges

The boiler was also recently replaced and is still covered by a manufacturer's warranty.

Approach is via a private driveway with off-road parking for two vehicles, a car port and lawn with path leading to the front door. Once inside the hallway, stairs lead to the first floor and doors open to the ground floor accommodation which includes a lounge and spacious open-plan kitchen dining area, with understairs store, to the rear.

Located to the front of the house, the lounge measures

14ft x 12ft and includes a large bay window, twin recessed archways with wall lights, feature fireplace with flame-effect gas fire and exposed ceiling beams.

The open plan kitchen dining area is spacious with patio doors opening to the rear garden and has been fitted with a range of fitted cupboards and a wine rack. There are also integrated appliances including a four-ring gas hob, electric oven with hood and extractor, display shelving and stainless steel inset sink.

Once upstairs, the two bedrooms measure 12ft 1in x 12ft 1in and 12ft x 9ft 5in respectively and are located to the front and rear.

In the master bedroom there are fitted wardrobes and both bedrooms include a double-glazed window and radiator. To the rear, the bathroom has been reappointed to include a stylish white suite with shower, screen and tiled floor.

Outside, the rear garden is well maintained with hedges, fencing, a lawn with a garden shed and decked patio.

For further information visit



the website at [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk) or call 01902 880888 to arrange a viewing.



Call Taylors on 01902 880888 to arrange a viewing of this well-presented two-bed semi with spacious garden and private parking

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**BRIERLEY HILL**  
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**STOURBRIDGE**  
26 BROOK STREET **£650 pcm**

Semi detached house close to Stourbridge town centre ■ spacious lounge, modern kitchen/dining ■ three bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower ■ paved rear garden, garage, substantial off road parking, c/h, d/g.



**CLENT**  
1 CLENT COTTAGES **£595 pcm**

Ground floor apartment within an idyllic setting ■ entrance hall, lounge, kitchen with modern fitted units ■ two bedrooms, bathroom / shower room ■ communal parking area to gravel forecourt, c/h, d/g



**STOURTON**  
8 STEWPONEY COURT **£595 pcm**

Modern first floor apartment in a popular development ■ lounge, kitchen recess with integrated appliances ■ two bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, fitted bathroom with shower ■ one allocated parking space, c/h, d/g, alarmed ■ ★★ First two months rent at £395 pcm ★★



**HAGLEY**  
42 NEWLANDS CLOSE **£575 pcm**

Second floor apartment ■ hall, lounge area, kitchen modern fitted units/integrated appliances ■ two bedrooms, master en-suite shower ■ one parking space, electric wall heating, d/g.



**MERRY HILL**  
52 COLUMBUS AVENUE **£525 pcm**

Modern exclusive penthouse apartment ■ lounge, kitchen recess with integrated appliances ■ two bedrooms, master with balcony area and en-suite shower ■ one designated parking space, c/h, d/g



**MERRY HILL**  
397 THE EMBANKMENT **£500 pcm**

Immaculate first floor apartment ■ large lounge with modern kitchen recess, balcony area, separate utility store cupboard ■ intercom system, two bedrooms, master ensuite shower room ■ allocated parking space, c/h, d/g.



**MERRY HILL**  
34 COLUMBUS AVENUE **£500 pcm**

Modern second floor apartment ■ lounge area, patio doors, kitchen recess modern fitted units/integrated appliances ■ two bedrooms, master with en-suite shower ■ one designated parking space, c/h, d/g.



**STOURBRIDGE**  
STUDIO FLAT  
16 GREENFIELD AVENUE **£395 pcm**

Studio apartment, lounge area, kitchen recess ■ modern units/integrated fridge, electric cooker, hob and extractor hood ■ one bedroom, separate shower room, cubicle, washbasin and low level wc ■ one parking space, c/h, d/g ■ additional £120 pcm to cover, council tax, gas, electricity, water and TV licence bills.



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### PENSNETT HIGH STREET

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£120 per week



### GREAT BRIDGE EAGLE PLACE

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### GORNA ROBERT ST

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£650 pcm



### KINGSWINFORD RAGES ROAD

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished

£375 pcm



### KINGSWINFORD RANGWAYS ROAD

Ground floor flat. Lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage, electric heating, double glazing, Carpets. Unfurnished, No Pets.

£475 pcm



### OLDBURY MORGAN CLOSE

Modern End Terrace, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Store, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains

£525 pcm



### LOWER GORNA MOUNT CL

Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£650 pcm



### SEDGLEY ROWAN ROAD

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets & Curtains, UNFURNISHED, Front & Rear Gardens

£525 pcm



### NETHERTON PARK ROAD

First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Electric Heating, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished

£350 pcm



### WORDSWLEY STREAM ROAD

End terrace property, Lounge, Kitchen/diner, out buildings, bathroom with shower, two double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, carpets & curtains, Unfurnished, Rear gardens.

£525 pcm



### STOURBRIDGE PENFIELDS

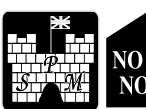
Terrace Property, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with : Gas Central Heating & Curtains, Front Gardens, Furn Off Road Parking

£625 pcm



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### COSELEY ROSEVILLE PRECINCT

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DETACHED Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Area, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.

£750 pcm



### BROCKMOOR PHEASANT STREET

Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, DSS Considered

£525 pcm



### PENSNE HIGH STREET

End Terrace Property, Reception Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Cell, Garden, Off Road Parking, UNFURNISHED

£430 pcm



### WOLVERHAMPTON VICTORIA ROAD

Terraced House, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets and Curtains, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

£575 pcm



### BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW

Cluster Home. Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, unfurnished, off road parking, double glazing. DSS considered.

£460 pcm



### COSELEY SALCOMBE GROVE

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

£545 pcm



### HALESOWEN BLAGDON ROAD

Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished, Sing Available Immed

£525 pcm



### TIPTON HOPKINS STREET

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Unfurnished

£525 pcm



### ROWLEY REGIS STUART ROAD

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets & Curtains, Front & Rear Gardens

£585 pcm



### WOMBOURNE FORGE VALLEY WAY

Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front, Side & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

£650 pcm



### RUSSELLS LANGSTONE

Semi-detached Property, Lounge, dining room, two bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, front gardens, carpets are unfurnished

£510 pcm

## Home of Property



This traditional home is conveniently placed for the many facilities available in Compton and Tetterhall

# Three-bed semi with a nature trail outlook

LOCATED in a sought-after area, this traditional Wolverhampton home has a large rear garden with stunning views over a nature trail.

The three-bedroomed home, at 150 Henwood Road, is conveniently located for shopping in Compton, is on a frequent public transport route and is only one-and-a-half miles from Tetterhall village.

Centrally-heated by a gas fired radiator system, there is also double glazing to some of the windows and a long mature garden with views over Valley Park Nature Trail.

Estate agent Rees Page is managing the sale, inviting offers in the region of £173,500 with no chain.

On approach, the house lies back from the road behind a driveway which leads to an attached garage/store measuring 18ft 11in x 6ft 6in, with an access door from the kitchen.

Entering into what the agent describes as "good-sized living accommodation", there is a hallway measuring 16ft x 6ft 5in with an understairs cupboard.

A spacious through living room has dimensions of 27ft 9in x 10ft 3in and comprises a front-facing dining room, measuring 14ft x 10ft 3in, with a reproduction Victorian-style fireplace, coving and ceiling moulding.

This leads through to the rear-facing lounge, which measures 13ft 6in x 10ft 3in and has coving and ceiling moulding and a patio window with a sliding door to the garden.

Measuring 17ft 2in x 13ft 4in overall, the kitchen and laundry room has an extensive range of wall and base units, a four-ring gas

There is an extensive range of wall and base units in the kitchen and laundry

hob, cupboards above and below, an integrated double oven from a trusted manufacturer, a one-and-a-half bowl sink unit, plumbing for a washing machine and an additional sink at the side.

The guest WC is fitted with a low-level suite including a wash basin. This room also houses the gas-fired central heating boiler.

A single rise staircase leads to the landing, where there are three bedrooms.

Measuring 12ft x 10ft 5in, the master is front-facing, while the second faces the rear and has dimensions of 13ft 6in x 10ft 5in.

At the rear of the house, a long garden has steps leading down to a gravelled patio area with lawns and well-stocked side borders. There is also a cold water tap and lighting.

Visit [www.reespage.com](http://www.reespage.com) or call the agent's Wolverhampton office on 01902 577775 to arrange a viewing.



The long rear garden has steps leading down to a gravelled patio area and lawns

# MOTERING NEWS AND REVIEWS

## CHRONICLE

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Audi A6

ROAD 1

# Evolution, not revolution, for A6

IT'S EASY to make all the right noises about becoming number one in your field, but turning those brave words into success is another matter altogether.

For car manufacturers it is a never-ending quest for more sales and a bigger slice of the market.

But the good news for car buyers like you and me is that the product on display in the showroom is better than ever.

Audi's new A6 is a perfect example of this. There's a good chance you'll remember the last-generation car: it was a popular beast, particularly in highly practical Sportback form.

## Sector

As a middleweight in the executive sector it was bang on the money, so why the need for a new one?

Time, and indeed the competition, waits for no-one in this kind of market, so to counter the recently-introduced BMW 5-Series and the still-young Mercedes-Benz E-Class, Audi has wheeled out the third chapter in the A6 story.

One glance is all you'll need to recognise that it's an A6: no



The latest A6 is 15 per cent lighter than its predecessor



Models are packed with kit



No current owner is going to be shocked by the appearance of the muscular new A6

current owner is going to be shocked by its appearance, though you'd be forgiven for mistaking one for its bigger brother, the A8.

With a more prominent grille and wider front wheelarches the front of the A6 has considerably more presence, and looks like a more muscle-bound machine. There's a gentle sweep towards the rear and a neat tail end, and the details are finished with the precision and attention to detail you would expect. It looks smarter but not vulgar.

Time and effort has clearly been spent on aerodynamics, which reflects the other big factor in the A6's rebirth: Efficiency. Every new car must offer a significant improvement in

terms of emissions and fuel economy compared to its predecessor, and the A6 does so regardless of the powerplant.

Grabbing the headlines is the 2.0-litre TDI model, likely to be the UK's best seller.

## Traction

Although it does without the quattro four-wheel drive system that delivers superior traction and handling, the more modest 175bhp and 280lb.ft of torque of the 2.0-litre TDI manages fine without. Not that it is a slow-coach by any means: 0-62mph takes a scant 8.7 seconds and the top speed of 141mph in more than sufficient.

But this front-wheel drive version is significantly lighter as

a result, helped by the use of aluminium in the bodyshell. Audi claims the A6 is 15 per cent lighter than an equivalent all-steel version.

Combined with the efficiency measures including stop/start, the A6 is capable of remarkably economy and emissions figures despite the brisk performance: a CO2 rating of just 129g/km is comparable with much smaller cars and attracts modest annual Vehicle Excise Duty, while the combined economy figure of 57.6mpg is pleasing.

This balance of performance and economy is obvious out on the road. The instant torque means there's no need to stir the gearlever frequently to make respectable progress, and even

when pushed the four-cylinder diesel is quiet and smooth.

Although many will choose an automatic the manual is sufficiently slick.

The good news on the inside is that A6 inherits much of the fine cabin design and materials from the bigger A7 Sportback and A8.

An Audi cabin is rarely anything other than a pleasant place to be, but the A6 is packed with kit even on the humblest model.

There is the usual wealth of options too, including Audi Pre-Safe collision protection, wireless connectivity and an infra-red camera, while colours and trims can be specified in numerous configurations.

All of which gives the impression that the A6 represents a considered and thorough evolution of the old car rather than a major departure, and rightly so.

MATT JOY

**FACTS AT A GLANCE**  
Model: A6 2.0 TDI SE, £30,145  
Engine: 2.0-litre diesel unit producing 175 bhp  
Transmission: Six-speed manual, front wheel drive  
Performance: Top speed 142mph, 0-62mph in 8.7 seconds  
Economy: 57.7mpg combined  
Emissions: 129g/km

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	CITROEN	C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDI 90 MPV EXCLUSIVE	BLACK	18/06/2010	£17,825	£11,990	£5,835	
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	CITROEN	C4 G PICASSO 1.6 HDI 110 EGS VTR+	RED	01/09/2010	£22,065	£14,990	£7,075	
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**AA**

Powerful Ford pick-up is ready to make its debut in 2011 CV Show at Birmingham's NEC

# Bolder look for Ranger



The Ford Ranger can be seen at the CV show at Birmingham NEC from April 12-14

THE new Ford Ranger pick-up has exceptional towing capability and a host of smart technologies including Adaptive Load Control, Trailer Sway Control, Voice Control and the market segment's first rear-view camera system.

The all-new Ford Ranger should prove a popular draw for visitors to the firm's stand at the Commercial Vehicle Show at the NEC, Birmingham, on April 12-14.

Steve Clary, commercial vehicles director, Ford of Britain, said: "With the CV Show reverting to its traditional format this year, we are delighted to be in attendance and supporting the message of innovation and development in road transport."

"We will be exhibiting a comprehensive range of our existing vehicles and some of our exciting future models. The show presents a fantastic opportunity for us to meet with many important customers."

"Despite the recent economic turbulence, Ford has continued to

heavily invest in exciting and technologically advanced vehicles for the CV industry."

The new Ford Ranger will be on sale around November this year and available in three different cab body styles, 4x2 and 4x4 drive-trains, two ride heights and four series choices.

With an all-new chassis, front and rear suspension and steering system, Ranger delivers outstanding towing capability of 3,300kg - up 300kg on the current model.

## Peak

The new Ranger is powered by a choice of two new fuel-efficient state-of-the-art common rail Ford Duratorq TDCi diesels and new fuel-efficient six-speed automatic and manual transmissions:

One is a new Dagenham-built 2.2-litre Ford Duratorq TDCi 14 diesel engine with peak torque of 375Nm and power output of 150PS. This is a global engine that will also appear in Transit Stage V models.

The other is a highly responsive and efficient new 3.2-litre, Ford Duratorq TDCi 15 diesel engine with 470Nm of torque and power rated

at 147kW (200PS). Pricing will be announced nearer to launch.

Every Transit will have Stage V engines as standard later this year. The aim is to give customers improved fuel economy and lower emissions. Stage V engines include a Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) with vapouriser technology that collects over 95 per cent of all engine soot emissions.

When the DPF is full, the new vapouriser technology heats the DPF to 600°C to turn all the soot into CO<sub>2</sub> and water in a process known as a regeneration cycle.

The new vapouriser increases the system's efficiency and reduces emissions.

Additionally, all Stage V engines will now have a Variable Nozzle Turbo (VNT) that boosts low end torque, improves driveability and also reduces emissions.

Transit Connect Electric will offer operators the opportunity to eliminate fuel bills in their small vans and help to lower overall running costs.

With a cargo volume of 3.8 m<sup>3</sup> and a payload of 410kg, Transit Connect Electric will particularly appeal to operators who travel predictable, short-range routes with frequent stop and go driving.



Ford's latest pick-up boasts exceptional towing capabilities and will additionally come with a host of smart technologies

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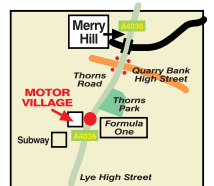
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CT 200h prices start from £23,485 OTR. Model shown CT 200h SE-L costing £23,995 including optional metallic paint. Price correct at time of going to press and in delivery, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund license and £55 first registration fee.

CT 200h fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures: urban 68.9 mpg (41 L/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0 L/100km), combined 68.9 mpg (41 L/100km). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions combined 94 g/km

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54 Reg	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6i DESIRE MPV, Beige, A/C, CD, 23k	£3995	£26
06 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIC Red, A/C, CD, 5-door, FSH, 28k	£4195	£28
07 Reg	FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE Silver, A/C, CD, 5-door, FSH, 37k	£3995	£28
06 Reg	FORD MONDEO 2.0 TDCI LX Bronze, Diesel, A/C, CD, FSH	£4195	£28
06 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI LX Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloy, CD, FSH	£5695	£36
55 Reg	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC Climate, Black, A/C, Alloy, CD, FSH	£5495	£36
04 Reg	MINI COOPER 1.6 CHILLI PACK Silver, A/C, Alloy, CD, Half leather sport seats, glass roof, FSH	£5695	£36
02 Reg	MG ZR 1.4 105 Silver, A/C, Alloy, CD, Spoiler, PX to clear	£1995	N/A
03 Reg	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 HDI Silver, A/C, CD, low insurance, px to clear	£1995	N/A
57 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 HDI Silver, A/C, CD, 5-door, £30 Year Road Tax	£5695	£36
53 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDI Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloy, CD	£3195	£21
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05 Reg	PEUGEOT 307 1.4 X-LINE A/C, Alloy, CD, Silver	£3695	£24
56 Reg	PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDI SE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloy, CD	£4695	£30
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53 Reg	RENAULT SCENIC 1.8 EXPRESSION MPV Gold, A/C, CD, 38k	£3195	£21
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06 Reg	SKODA SUPERB 1.9 TDI Elegance Gold, Diesel, A/C, Alloy, CD, leather sport seats, FSH	£5695	£36
03 Reg	TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 VTI Silver, A/C, Alloy, CD, leather sport seats	£4195	£28
57 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CLUB Blue, A/C, Alloy, CD, FSH, 39k	£4995	£32
10 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SRI White, A/C, Alloy, CD, FSH, 2k	£9695	£59
05 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN Red, Low Insurance, FSH	£3195	£21
56 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTI 16V CLUB Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloy, CD, FSH	£4695	£30
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07 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTI EXCLUSIVE Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloy, CD, FSH	£5195	£33
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06 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI DESIGN Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloy, CD, Full Leather, FSH	£5695	£36
02 Reg	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0i CDTI CLUB MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, CD, 7-seater	£3195	£21
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55 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.9 SE TDI Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloy, CD	£5995	£36
53 Reg	VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 2.0 S Silver, A/C, Alloy, CD, Winter Pack, FSH	£4495	£29

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## Lots of room inside shortest mini-MPV



Toyota's Verso-S mini-MPV has been designed to be comfortable with a flexible load space

WHEN it comes to size, on the outside the new Toyota Verso-S is the smallest of the market's mini-MPVs.

But clever design and packaging mean that the space on offer inside is close to what you will find in a compact family hatchback.

Toyota has a great track record for maximising the room inside its small cars, as witnessed in models such as iQ, Aygo and Yaris. With the Verso-S every detail has been addressed to make life on board more comfortable for occupants and to build in equally generous and flexible loadspace.

Overall, the Verso-S is less than four metres long, but its 2,550mm wheelbase means the cabin is fundamentally well-proportioned, reflected in 120mm of headroom for driver and front passenger and generous space all-round for rear

seat passengers. The front seats have thinner internal frames (without compromising their whiplash injury-lessening safety performance), which means more knee-room for those in the back.

Even the rear door trims are thinner towards their bottom edge, to give more "foot-room" when getting in and out of the car.

### Simple

The rear seats are divided 60:40 and have a simple one-touch flat-fold mechanism.

Verso-S makes life even easier by providing additional control levers to fold the seats down on each side of the boot space – a feature not found on any of its mini-MPV rivals.

With the rear seats in place, the loadspace can swallow 336 litres of cargo.

The Verso-S comes with a light-

weight deckboard that can be moved between two positions to suit loading requirements. Moving it to its lower level – a one-handed task – increases the load depth by 120mm and overall capacity by another 57 litres.

Furthermore, on T Spirit models, which come with a tyre repair kit, the well usually occupied by the spare wheel is freed up, taking the loadspace up to 429 litres.

With the rear seats folded flat, the measurement for load-carrying extends to a maximum 1,388 litres.

Around the cabin there are 19 separate storage points, including door pockets, bottle and cupholders, a tray beneath the front passenger seat and a three-level dashboard compartment.

The Toyota Verso-S is on sale now, priced from £14,645 on the road.

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Purchase Fee .....	£10.00
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Total Amount Payable .....	£12,397.68
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Term (months) .....	37

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Grey black tabby, chipped / neutered, may still be wearing turquoise collar with ID Bell. Last seen Vauxhall Walk, Dudley, January 25. £100 reward for safe return. 01384 345612.

**MISSING** From Pottersham, black and young black cat, white tufts in ears, since February 2. 07800 517568.

## Religious Notices

### Christadelphian

**LESSONS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT** There is one baptism. February 27th at 9pm The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford. Or write to The Christadelphians, FREEPOST W1681 Kingswinford DY9 9B1 for free information pack or ring 01384 278585 for recorded message.

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**FUN GENT**  
Genuine, honest, loving, young looking trendy 50, slim, 5ft 10ins tall, white, seeks similar female for L.T.R. Enjoys nights in or out, short breaks away.  
All letters answered. Photo returned.  
Box Number P16722, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GAY MALE**  
Young looking 32 years, slim to medium build, employed, mobile.  
Interests are cinema, theatre, dining out, bowling, concerts, walking, holidays, weekends away etc.  
Seeks a genuine similar guy, aged 19-30 years for good friendship / possible relationship.  
Photo appreciated (returned) A.L.A.  
Box Number P16732, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GENTLEMAN**  
Bodywork in good condition, own hair and teeth, WLTW lady 29-42 for LTR. I am a non smoker, 168cm tall, have sense of humour, even a personality at times. Photo helpful and returned, go on you might even like me. Write Box No. P16739 (SS), Wiltshire Newspapers Ltd, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GENUINE 33 YEARS OLD SLIM**  
Wolverhampton Male, looking for Female, 18-55 for Friendship/Relationship.  
Box Number P16743, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GENUINE LADY 64**  
WLTW tall honest gentleman 60-68 for Friendship or possible relationship.  
Box Number P16736, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**I WANT A FRIEND, MALE OR FEMALE**  
They must be Black Country, an animal lover, likes caravan holidays and enjoys a drink. I'm in my 60's but young at heart.  
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**LADY 71**  
N/S, loving and caring, many interests, seeks genuine, caring male, for friendship / relationship.  
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Charter standard club, requires players for under 14's, current year 9.  
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53 years, GSOH, nice looking, easy going, varied interests, seeks honest, loving lady for friendship, romance and more.  
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ical, very good condition, spoiler,  
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## FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC

04 reg, 23k, tonic blue, 12,  
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owner, CD, alloys, CD, petrol, must be seen.  
£2,300 ono.  
07711 048123.

## FORD FOCUS 1.6L

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e/m, c/l, air bags, pas, long  
MOT, 2 lady owners. Excellent  
throughout.  
£2,195 ono.  
01743 800530.

## FORD KA 1.1 2003, 3dr

hatch, 20k, light blue, CL, EW,  
alloys, CD, excellent condition.  
01902 680547 / 07871 976145.

## FORD PUMA 1.6, 02, silver, full

MOT, 6000 genuine miles, 1 lady  
owner, excellent condition.  
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previous owners, half leather  
interior, five door hatchback,  
alloys, usual electric extras,  
excellent condition.  
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01922 713996 / 07514 886156.

## HONDA JAZZ, 2005, service, 37,800

miles, 2 owners, service history,  
tax, MOT, excellent condition.  
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## KIA CARENS

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**NOTICE TO READERS**

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**BILSTON, James Street, 2-bed house, nr town centre, unfurnished. £100 pc. 01902 490411, after 6pm.**

**BLAKEHALL, W.ton, large rooms, part furn, in rent/depend. DSS ok. 07773 256589.**

**BLOXWICH ONE BEDROOM flat in secure building, 220sq ft, exclusive. Deposit & references required. No DSS/Pets. Age restriction. Genuine only. 07532 391740 or 07302 106629.**

**CHAPEL, Ash, W.ton, Bedsits available. DSS 25+ welcome. No Upfront Deposits. 07773 256542.**

**CHAPEL, Ash, unfurnished. £475pcn. 07970 659149.**

**ONE BED FLAT** Walsall, £399 pcm, clean and tidy, available now. Low deposit. 01952 290390.

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**SEDDLEY ONE** bed flat, suit mature person, no children / pets. £235pcn. 07873 283912.

**SELF CONTAINED** Studio flat, parking, laundry. 01902 334081.

**TETTENHALL**, W.ton, 1 Bed flat & studio, partly furn, low rent deposit. DSS 25+, 07773 256589.

**THREE BED** House, Willenhall, CH, quiet location, modernised. £550pcn. 07971 028666.

**THREE BEDROOM** House for rent, deposit required, Eastfield area. Call 07956 435070.

**THREE BEDROOM** house Wednesfield, Ref's deposit required. £375pcn. 07771 750501.

**TIPTON** 3-bed flats, redecorated throughout, laminate flooring, modern kitchen, bathroom, central heating. DSS OK. £100 - £120 pwk plus dep. 07931 734890.

**TO LET** modern, three bed terrace, with driveway, Merri- dale, £1900 651460. 07574 254318.

**TWO BED** Flat, Etingshall Park, Doveclay Road, garden, no pets. 01341 947678.

**TWO BED HOUSE** to let, Sedgley, close to all amenities. £495 pcn plus £495 deposit. No smokers or pets. DSS welcome. 07978 800519 or 07976 297868.

**WILLENHALL**, 3 bed modern house, garden, garage, GCH. £125pw. 07574 862161.

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**DUDLEY / BRIDFILL BEDSITS** let from £50-£85 pw inc bills, secure. D.S.S ok, flex terms. 07956 66644 or 0121 5571555.

**DUDLEY**, Blowers Green, 1 Bed Flat, CH, DG, Low Rent/Deposit, DSS 25+ welcome. 07773 256589.

**DUDLEY CENTRE**, King Street, one bedroomed flat to let. 07738 014455.

**DUDLEY**, Nelson Road, three bed terraced house to let. 07738 014455.

**FLAT**, spacious, fully furnished, pine bedroom, washing machine, CH, Penn. £75pw. 01902 335600.

**FLAT TO LET** partly furnished 3 bed, refurbished to high standard. Northway, Sedgley. 07738 014455.

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**LUXURY TWO** bed flat near Dudley centre. No DSS. £495. 01384 250729. 01902 676497.

**MERRIDALE RD**, Chapel Ash, Large Spacious 5 Bed House, CH, DG, very clean, tidy. DSS family welcome. 07773 256589.

**MERRIDALE**, W.ton, Aspen Way, Spacious 2 bed flat, DG, DSS family welcome. 07773 256589.

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**NICE DETACHED** Broomfield, 3 bed, CH, parking / Garage. £365 pcm. 01902 343913 / 07759 037868.

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**public & legal notices**

**Staffordshire County Council**

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**  
**ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ON THE COMPA, KINVER**

1. Staffordshire County Council on 24th February 2011 made a Traffic Order under Sections 1(1) and 2(1) to (3) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 of the Act, hereby makes the following Order to prevent you from driving your vehicle in a south-easterly direction on the following road:-

**The Compa, Kinver** - between its junctions with The Cliff and Church Road, an approximate distance of 335 metres.

2. This Order is called the Staffordshire County Council (The Compa, Kinver) (One-Way Traffic) Order 2011.

3. Full details of the Order together with a map showing the restricted area may be inspected during normal office hours at the office of the Director of Place & Deputy Chief Executive, Highways, Riverway, Stafford, ST16 3TJ, and during normal opening hours at Kinver Library, Vicarage Drive, Kinver, Stourbridge.

4. Any person who desires to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in the Order on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 or on the grounds that any requirement of those sections or of Parts I, II, and III of Schedule 9 of the Act or any regulations made under the said Part III of Schedule 9 of the Act has not been complied with in relation to the Order, may, within six weeks of the date on which the Orders was made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

5. The Order will come into operation on 1st March 2011.

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**  
**HIGH STREET, KINVER**  
**DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Staffordshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of High Street, Kinver between its junction with Mill Lane and Stone Lane unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works. There will be limited vehicular access to frontages from either end dependent upon the works but through access will not be permitted. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

The preferred alternative route for traffic will be available via High Street, Enville Road, Hyde Lane, A458 Bridgnorth Road, A449 Kidderminster Road, Dunsley Road, Mill Lane and vice versa.

**THE ORDER WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON 17 MARCH 2011 AND THE SAID WORKS WILL COMMENCE ON OR AS NEAR AS PRACTICABLE TO THAT DATE. THE WORKS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 19:00 AND 04:00 AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED ON 18 MARCH 2011.**

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the stone mounting block placement works, which is proposed to carry out on or near the road, have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

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BRIGHT bubbly, adventurous, outgoing, honest, trustworthy female, some and find me. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359235

42YR old female, sophisticated, genuine, attractive, no ties, OHAC, looking for honest man. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360411

I am a 20yr old slim blonde with blue eyes who enjoys nothing more than cosying up with a good man, are you him? ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360409

MANDY 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360317

30YR old attractive confident business women, frequently in area seeks older gent for mutual spoiling, pampering and adult fun. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358137

I'm single! Waiting for a nice guy of any age to sweep me off my feet. I'm fun loving and looking for a good time. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357141

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428

CURVY intelligent young widow, 58, blue eyes, short dark hair, lovely figure, seeks tall lively male to open up his pleasures with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354329

HI I am Ellen 45, attractive with status-que curvy figure looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356135

FRIENDLY outgoing, sociable lady, 34 but looks mid 20's (its true) WLTW adventurous male 18 - 65, I'm open to most ages/things, happy to try most things. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355761

WHITE 50's genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358855

40's lady, lovely curves, solvent but lonely, seeks nice older male to pamper, enjoy fun and affection with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358135

30YRS old curvy black female seeks older male for cosy nights in. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357143

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358399

LONELY blonde widow with no ties, looking for love and romance again with lots of TLC. WLTW similar man. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355247

PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359351

SHROPSHIRE lady 48, slim, attractive, N/S, seeks attractive male, 5ft 10ins plus for good times, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359491

30'S divorced nurse seeking dark skinned man for meals in, sitting in the back row, hand holding and TLC. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359169

SHROPSHIRE lady, 61, likes countryside, sea, travel, cooking, sewing, lived on farm, seeks special genuine gent for nice match. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334241

SLIM attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, lady. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359167

FED up with lonely nights! Blonde blue eyed, no children/fries, WLTW someone for cosy nights in and TLC. Any age/looks nice. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359165

SOPHIE 29 generously proportioned lady who loves all of her curves, looking for nice older male for good times and nice conversations. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356139

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meets out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357919

FEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks soul mate who is genuine and caring. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356761

DO you know what women want? 40yr old petite lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327573

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, 55, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gentleman, 55 plus with GSOH and enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356411

OPEN friendly Christian female, professional, seeks kind, caring, Christian male for friendship and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348867

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 313115

SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491

ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, trendy, no ties, high morals, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316619

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399

YUMMY mummy looking for gent with GSOH to put much needed fun back into my life. No pressure just good honest fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358263

ATTRACTIVE 60's lady looking for a good man. Loving, tactile and sensitive can you put the spring back in my step? ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358269

VERY lonely young looking 40's female, solvent, OHAC, seeks younger male for chilled together. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358267

CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, WLTW very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357985

CONFIDENT full figured and all woman, likes cosy nights in with that special person, looking for friendship maybe more. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356133

GORGEOUS 26yr old independent female with lots to offer to the right person, seeks similar. Willing to travel. Any age/status welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358141

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 350397

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easy-going and N/S. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265

ATTRACTIVE single mum, 40, outgoing, seeks similar guy for good times, possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348919

PRINCE wanted, must be fit, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs. I am late 50's and attractive. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337465

LISA 32, size 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 380916

ATTRACTIVE glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/dating and LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339799

LADY 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTW gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced, truthful, 5ft 3ins, modern, young at heart, seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338315

LADY N/S, car owner, seeks lonely, retired gent with old fashioned values for friendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354183

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 301001

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329319

ATTRACTIVE nurse, 48, 5ft 6ins, cinema, walks, country, WLTW attractive male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341479

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 351813

60YR old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks gent, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334627

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357751

HI I'm Emma, a 31yr old smiley lady. I love fun and am looking for excitement with an fun male, I want to make you happy, age unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355765

IRENE 72, N/S, active, 5ft 2ins, slim, blonde hair, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331301

YOUNG bubbly black lady, likes winning/dining, seeks mature male for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328669

VANESSA fun loving single mum, 5ft 4ins, brown eyes, seeks kind, loving, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 304135

ATTRACTIVE widow, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, likes meals out, holidays, WLTW gent, 70-80 for friendship and happiness. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 330461

YOUNG 72yr old female, slim, active, attractive, likes walks, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324441

FEMININE lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong minded male, I have so many interests please call to hear them. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355763

SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 180587

LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355891

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine, caring male for relationship. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354533

YVETTE pretty, stylish, modern, 44, outgoing, bubbly, sporty, seeks male for nights in/out. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 351997

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432

SINGLE mum, new to area, red hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks handsome guy 30-40 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346715

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, genuine, caring male, 45-55 for fun and friendship, maybe LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 347799

GENUINE caring, mid 60's female, many interests, GSOH, seeks kind, genuine, loyal male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327465

SLIM petite, green eyed blonde, seeks tall guy with GSOH. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338729

PETITE dark haired lady, 43, size 10, seeks discreet, considerate, N/S male, 35-50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 338651

35YR old female, solvent, own home, likes movies, seeks likeminded male for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337191

YOUNG at heart lady, mid 70's, seeks male friend to enjoy outings and companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335821

WEST Bromwich female, late 50's, modern, romantic, easygoing, seeks active, genuine male, 45-60 for LTR. Driver preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 336759

PRETTY size 8 female, 19, seeks male to spoil and treat her like a Princess. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335019

LADY 50, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, nights out, seeks genuine guy, 50-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 333183

KAREN 47, 5ft 9ins, civil servant, attractive, down to earth, likes drink, dancing, socialising, home life, seeks tall, professional male, N/S for loving relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324349

IRENE 72, N/S, active, 5ft 2ins, slim, blonde hair, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331301

YOUNG bubbly black lady, likes winning/dining, seeks mature male for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328669

YOUNG 72yr old female, slim, active, attractive, likes walks, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324441

SYLVIE 59, N/S, long blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, slim, OHAC, likes cycling, walks, keep fit, horse riding, holidays, theatre, films, meals out, GSOH, seeks male for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 321149

TRACEY seeks special N/S, easygoing, loving, caring, loyal male to share life with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335781

LEONIE 42, wheelchair user, have cerebral palsy, 3 children, likes theatre, meals out, seeks honest, genuine, sincere male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 318685

PROFESSIONAL lady, young 50, fashionable, pleasant, kind, likes country-side, outdoors, holidays, family life, seeks pleasant, committed Christian male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316403

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317945

SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353005

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349865

ATTRACTIVE tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211

53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 48-56. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339275

WEST Midlands female, 4, attractive, slim, divorced, N/S, seeks slim, clean, attractive male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 343735

BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362478

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323543

WIDOWED female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for fun only, daytime liaisons. Halesowen. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765

FEMALE medium build, seeks nice N/S male, 40+ for fun and friendship, maybe more. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337985

FEMININE pre op TS, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 315195

FEMALE 40's, 5ft 6ins, brunette, seeks nice, caring, loving, fun, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329019

JANICE 50 plus, young at heart, 5ft 2ins, brunette, athletic, likes outdoors, music, movies, seeks male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316745

MAGS 62, N/S, likeminded, GSOH, 5ft 4ins, brown hair, slightly pudgy, likes meals out, countryside, days out, nights in, seeks gent, 55-67 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328877

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367066

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359238

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368528

### men seeking women

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125 (T&C's below).

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, fit, N/S, OHAC, like wine bars, theatre, dancing, seeks attractive slim female, 50-58 for lasting relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360699

THOUGHTFUL adventurous, attractive guy, 37, OHAC, likes nights in/out, seeks attractive girl with similar interests. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360663

MALE 55, likes pubs, sports, meals out, travel, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360617

PROFESSIONAL N/S graduate, likes tennis, gardening, painting, searching for an intelligent, slim, kind, faithful lady for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360379

ANDY 44, average build, likes country walks, meals out, motor bikes, seeks special lady for serious relationship. Telford. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 360255

48YR old male, own home/business, likes singing, seeks happy female to spoil. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323803

MALE 38, 5ft 9ins, medium build, honest, reliable, trustworthy, seeks similar female, 35-45. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317403

32YR old guy, likes music, cooking, joking, seeks female, 40-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 332365

MARK 6ft, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, easygoing, honest, hardworking, likes sports, music, cinema, seeks special lady to share life with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358971

NORTH Shropshire widower, medium build, loving, caring, honest, seeks smart female, 58-70 for special relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358833

TALL fit good looking friendly guy with GSOH, 49, seeks adventurous lady for fun only, daytime liaisons. Halesowen. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357729

MALE 46, N/S, seeks female to sparkle back into life. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353781

DAVE 49, own home, likes pubs, clubs, dancing, meals out, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337729

WEST Bromwich male 46, 5ft 8ins, fair hair, hazel eyes, seeks female, 20-45 for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358843

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, 45, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeks attractive female with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6

# sport

## Heathens set to name their final two riders

DUDLEY Heathens are set to complete their team building for the new National League Speedway season tomorrow (February 25).

The former Cradley club will announce their final two signings to supporters at the sold-out Dudley Wood Tribute Night at Cradley Heath Liberal Club.

Winter signing Adam Roynon will make the trip from his Cumbrian

home and be officially unveiled to supporters. He will also be available for autographs and pictures with fans and a special print will be available on the night.

Roynon, skipper Jon Armstrong, Tom Perry, Ashley Morris and Darryl Fitchings have been confirmed so far and boss Will Pottinger will announce the last two spots.

He said: "We think it's a nice

gesture to tell the fans at our function on Friday night first. But the club will also send a press release out at the same time, probably around 8.30pm, so anyone who hasn't got a ticket should keep checking the website."

Heathens will also unveil the 2011 racejacket to supporters on Friday. A one-off version has been made which Roynon will sign to be

auctioned off. A 2010 racejacket, signed by the full team, is also available for auction.

Meanwhile HSSC (Heathens Speedway Supporters Club) will also have on sale exclusive T-shirts featuring the 1983 Cradley team – arguably the best in the history of British speedway. Referee Tony Steele will show rare footage from Dudley Wood in the 40s and 80s.



Dudley on the attack during their victory



The packs prepare to do battle in the scrum. Pictures: Gordon Bannatyne



Dudley Kingswinford secure lineout ball

## Boot of Bown to rescue as DK edge to super victory

GARETH BOWN'S last kick of the game penalty gave Dudley Kingswinford a dramatic victory over Whitchurch at Heathbrook.

The league leaders were pushed all the way by the Shropshire outfit, but maintained their 100 per cent record this season with a 19th straight victory.

DK were forced into four changes for the game, with influential player-coach Jon Higgins absent due to a rib injury.

Ben Connatt, Tommy Huggins, Luke Greenwood and Rich Kelley all came into the side and DK made a sluggish start, writes Peter Stinton.

Danny Nicholas sent over two early penalties for the visitors who found themselves 6-0 in front after 14 minutes.

After several spurned opportunities DK scored their opening try through Jamie Ramsey, who drove over from a five-metre scrum, with Bown doing the honours from the conversion.

### Swinging

The lead didn't last long though with Stefan Shillingford's intercepted pass letting in Adam Teare for a shock try, converted for a 13-7 lead.

DK edged back in front thanks to a Stefan Thorp try.

But Whitchurch earned a 20-14 half-time lead when Andy Oaken went over in the corner, with Nicholas adding a superb touchline conversion. DK came again in

### Momentum

Back at full strength DK responded through Thorp, who blasted over the line from close range, Bown's conversion leaving the match level.

The momentum was now with DK, but Shillingford's attempt to send Davis away was intercepted by the predatory Teare who raced away for a converted try.

But less than a minute later the league leaders pulled the scores level through Thorp's hat-trick try, converted by Bown. DK went offside, but the home crowd breathed a collective sigh of relief when Nicholas missed the penalty and set the scene for Bown.

## Business plea for club's race night

STOURBRIDGE Cricket Club is looking for just two more local businesses to provide sponsorship for its forthcoming Race Night on Saturday, March 12.

The £40 cost includes a race named after the company; a runner in the sponsored race; a prize if the horse wins; mentions of the company name on the night; unlimited tickets to the event; an advertisement on the club sponsors board and a link on the new sponsors page on the club web-site.

Anyone who is interested should contact Mark on 07506 747619.

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## Carolians fall short by just one point

Kidderminster C 13  
Bedworth 14

KIDDERMINSTER anticipated a tough afternoon against a Bedworth side who had hammered them 39-3 before Christmas.

But the Carolians are very hard to beat at home, and eventually succumbed by just a single, frustrating point.

Driving close-quarter forward play in the last 20 minutes enabled Bedworth to protect their advantage. It wasn't pretty, but it worked.

Kidderminster opened strongly but the first time Bedworth got their hands on the ball they made good use of an overlap to move the ball right and score wide out, writes Martin Easton.

KCs shrugged off this setback and 10 minutes later great work by young flanker Mike Protheroe retrieved a lost scrum to set up a backs' move and full-back Ben Stanier timed his run perfectly before sending over left wing Nick Martin in the corner.

Three minutes later fly-half Andy McLellan chipped and won the race for a 10-5 lead.

Three second-half penalties for the visitors, against one for McLellan, gave Bedworth the victory.

A DAZZLING second-half display help steer the Saxons to a scintillating victory over their London visitors.

And although a late try from the visitors earned them a losing bonus, there were plenty of positives from Stourbridge whose four-try haul ensured maximum points.

The sides traded penalties with Park's Ross Laidlaw slotting over after three minutes only for this to be cancelled out by Chris Surman.

Laidlaw then kicked three more penalties to open up a nine-point lead that also saw referee Andrew Jackson lose patience with the home side and send centre Charlie Hayter to the sin bin as the Saxons repeatedly offended at the breakdown, writes David Lawrence.

But it was 14-man Stourbridge who claimed the opening try late in the half. Winger Sam Baker skipped inside his opposite number before darting 15 metres to the line.

### Dominate

The second half saw the home side dominate from the whistle with powerful runs from Tom Jarvis and Liam Wordley signalling their attacking intent.

Four minutes into the half, a penalty was kicked to the corner and when Thomas gathered the ball at the resulting line-out he was driven over the line to hand his side a slender one-point lead.

The Stourbridge pressure was relentless and Will Betts dived in for a try on 55 minutes, Jamie Hearn converting for a 20-12 lead.

Park's Jon Barrett was binned following a trip but the visitors were

Stourbridge Saxons 27  
Rosslyn Park 22

back to their full quota by the time Hayter ran in the fourth.

It was undoubtedly the score of the game, starting deep in the Saxons half when Hearn took off on an arcing 40-metre run.

He fed Baker on the right who in turn linked with Hayter who sped clear to the line.

### Space

Hearn kicked the extras.

All the visitors had to show for their second-half efforts was another Laidlaw penalty.

But they finally crossed the line for a converted try with the very last play of the game when Laidlaw found some space wide on the left.

He duly popped over the conversion but not even that late blip could take the shine off a sizzling Stourbridge display.

Stourbridge: Hearn, Baker, Jarvis (Dipple 75), Hayter, Smith, Surman (Brown 70), White, Moss (Pickard 70), Wordley (Page 58), Lawrence, Hughes, Betts, Cooper, Sparks, Thomas (Leach 64).

Rosslyn Park: Davies (Jewell 55), Edgerley, Gower, Lewis, Edwards, Laidlaw, Baxter (Barr 68), Millard (Huggitt 28), Taulialo, Collier, Papp, Cross (Gates 52), Rowland, Barrett, Lock. Replacement (not used): Williams.



Best foot forward: Stourbridge hooker Liam Wordley makes headway against Rosslyn Park

## Derby day cracker looms as Mitchell says: We can win

A DERBY DAY cracker is Stourbridge Saxons chief Neil Mitchell's verdict on this Saturday's clash with near neighbours Cinderford.

With both Stourbridge and their Gloucestershire visitors picking up thrilling wins at the weekend, it should be a battle royal.

"Cinderford's tails will be up after they beat Blackheath and it's a local derby which they will see as their cup-final," Mitchell admitted. "They've hit a vein of form but

we would like to take that scalp.

"They know we have a young side, but I don't see any reason why we shouldn't take another five points."

"If we maintain our good form here at Stourton Park then we have a great chance. But we must stress the importance of defending better and without those sloppy errors I believe we can put back to back home wins together."

Mitchell described events in the first half on Saturday as "starving ourselves defensively", but the

Saxons eventually ran out 27-22 winners at home to Rosslyn Park.

Early mistakes at the breakdown saw visiting fly-half Ross Laidlaw showcase his kicking as the Londoners led 12-3.

Mitchell said: "We let ourselves down again in the first half and that's the third home game where we have conceded at least three penalty points."

"It was a pleasing result in the end, but for me it's disappointing because we have made it hard for ourselves again."



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